

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending, with claims 1, 10 and 12 being independent.

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-10 and 12 have been amended to correct informalities in the claim language. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of claim 2. Accordingly, claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice. Support for the amendment is found, for example, at Fig. 8 of the present application. It is respectfully submitted that because no new matter or consideration are introduced by this amendment, this amendment should be entered.

Claims Objections

Claims 1, 8, 10 and 12 were objected to because of the informalities. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments made to these claims overcome this objection.

Double Patenting

Claims 1-11 were provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-4, 16 and 28 of co-pending Application No. 10/559,580. Claims 1-11 were also provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-3 and 6-13 of co-pending Application No. 11/660,993. Claims 1-11 were further provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-21 of co-pending Application No. 10/551,459. Claims 12-13 were provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-5 of co-pending Application No. 11/994,115.

Regarding claims 12-13, Applicants respectfully submit that the Application No. 11/994,115 cannot be found on any record with the USPTO PAIR or Applicants representative's records. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner clarify or revise the rejection of claims 12-13.

Applicants respectfully submit that since a terminal disclaimer is being concurrently filed with this document, the Examiner is requested to withdraw the rejections of claims 1-11.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, because it is unclear whether the average grain size of the abrasive grains is equal to or greater than the pore size of the molded product. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment made to claim 5 overcomes this rejection.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 12-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Fukutake et al. (US 5,252,383).

Applicants respectfully submit that Fukutake fails to disclose that the plated layer is selectively formed only on surfaces of the through portions or the recessed portions, or both of these, as recited by amended claim 12. In Fukutake, the plated layer 5 is formed not only on the surface of the through portions or the recessed portions but also on the surfaces of the porous fluororesin sheet 1 (see, Fig. 1 of Fukutake). As such, it is clear that, at a minimum, Fukutake fails to disclose the above discussed limitations of amended claim 12. Accordingly, Fukutake

does not anticipate claims 12 and 13. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 12 and 13.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meola (US 5,498,467) in view of Hiraoka et al. (US 5,684,065). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Applicants submit that claim 1 now incorporates all of the limitations of original claim 2, which are not disclosed by either Meola or Hiraoka. Regarding original claim 2, the Examiner fails to point out where the cited references disclose the limitations of this claim. Applicants respectfully submit that neither Meola nor Hiraoka discloses the limitations of original claim 2. Accordingly, amended claim 1 is patentable over the cited references. It is submitted that dependent claims 3-9 are also patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that neither Meola nor Hiraoka discloses the limitations of claims 5-7 because neither of the cited references uses the abrasive etching process. Moreover, as to claim 8, neither Meola nor Hiraoka discloses the use of a buffer material placed on the side opposite to the side on which the mask has been placed. Accordingly, these dependent claims are patentable for these reasons in addition to the dependency upon claim 1.

With regard to independent claim 10, Applicants respectfully submit that neither Meola nor Hiraoka discloses the use of the resin layer for resist as recited by claim 10. Accordingly, claim 10 is patentable over the cited references. It is submitted that dependent claim 11 is also patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 10.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that this application should be allowed and the case passed to issue. If there are any questions regarding this Amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated to expedite the prosecution of the application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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